The Acorn

Drew University's student newspaper since 1928

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Sandy uproots campus

Photos by Justin Camejo

Students walk past a root ball of the remains of one of Drew's many downed trees after Superstorm Sandy ravaged the campus last week

Lina Estrada
News Editor

Jason Pemstein
Assistant News Editor

For the second year in a row, Drew University was struck by a series of devastating storms. Unlike the situation with the snowstorm in October, Superstorm Sandy and the nor'easter that hit on Wendesday was less of a challenge for Facilities, Public Safety and the housing departments, whose efforts resulted in the successful re-opening of the college.

Michael Kopas, the executive director of Facilities, spoke about the severity of the storm, but also how prepared the college was before it hit. "This storm was different from last year's storm. The storm that hit last October was harder to predict," Kopas said. "This time we had the news channels to inform us and we were able to get ready for Sandy."

"We were able to clear patio furniture outside, bring garbage cans in, have tables turned over.

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Students negotiate through four inches of snow left by Wednesday's nor'easter

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Requirements 101: Get 'em done

Class of 2013 first to graduate under latest Gen. Ed. revamp

Kimberly Ammiano
Features Editor

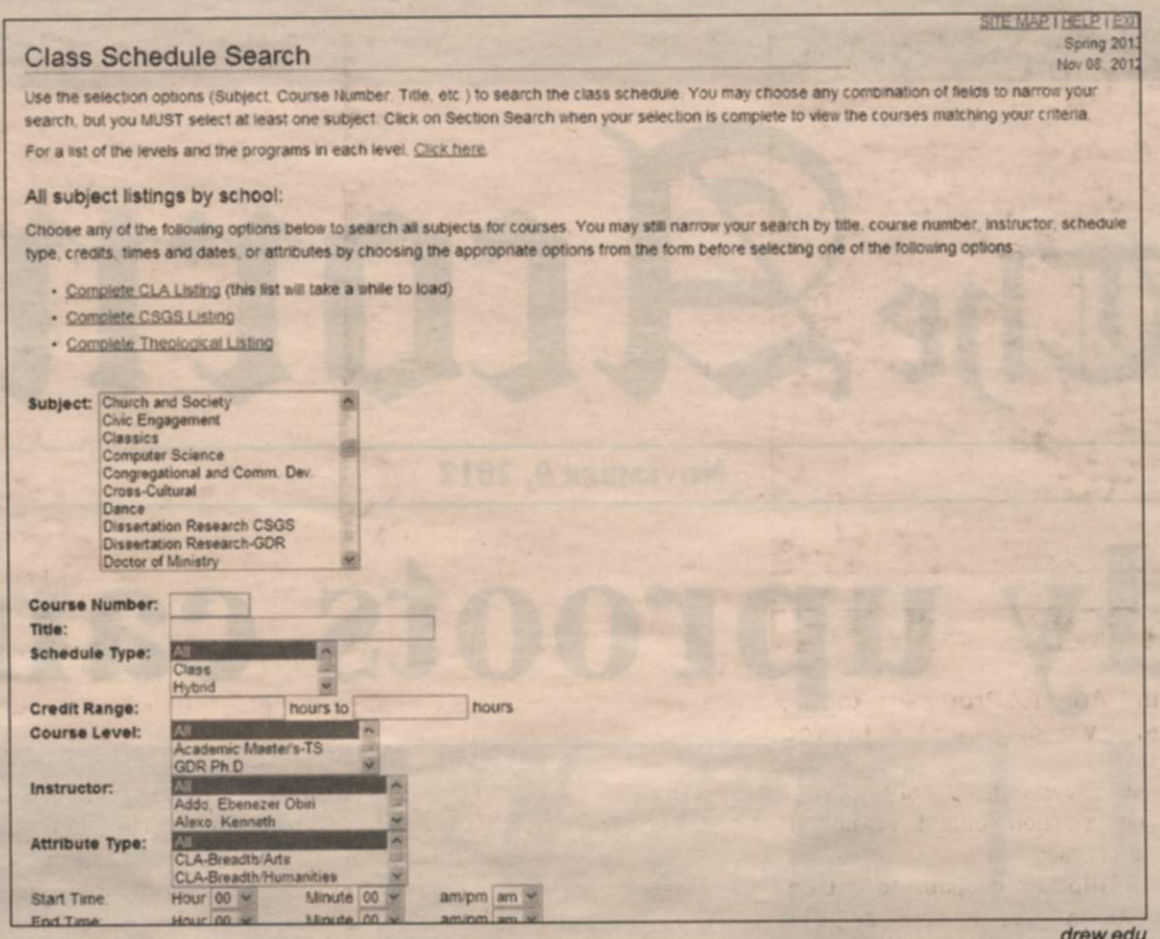
Drewids who have chosen to pursue a path of study other than liberal arts often worry about the general education requirements - breadth requirements especially - and this often causes the onset of minor panic attacks, pre-graduation angst and fear of failing.

However, according to Associate Dean for Curriculum and Faculty Development Sharon Sundue, the general education requirements are "central" to the Drew learning experience. "The requirements," she said, "ensure a quality education and allow us to feel confident that upon graduation students have had a taste of all they will need."

The "Breadth of Knowledge," as it is formally called, consists of four credits in the natural sciences, four credits in social sciences, four in arts, four in the humanities, four in interdisciplinary studies, eight credits in Writing Intensive courses and eight in quantitative literacy.

Additionally, there are a number of required first-year courses, as well as either proof of foreign language proficiency or a completion of foreign languages courses through an intermediate level. Lastly, there is a requirement for an off-campus experience.

"When you think about it, though," Sundue said, "the student's chosen major is also a part of the requirements." While the angst about completing general education requirements has grown around campus, both Sundue and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Jonathan Levin would like to reassure students that the general education requirements will not undergo a change in the near future. "The only change that will be happening in the Fall of 2013," Sundue elaborated, "is that the University will no longer care from what subject are the eight required credits for the writing intensive breadth come from."



drew.edu

The finishing of general education requirements is an integral aspect of course selection

Levin added that "there has been some concern about students having met the writing intensive requirement so faculty have discussed how to respond to that."

"The whole general education program was changed four years ago," commented Levin. "The senior class will be the first to graduate under them. We've changed very little since then."

According to Dean Levin, the change in the writing intensive requirement will create more flexibility for students. "For students who are double majors, they will fulfill the advanced writing requirement by completing two Writing in the Major courses and one writing intensive," he said.

"They are still completing three advanced writing courses, but instead of one Writing in the Major and two writing intensives, we are allowing them to count both Writing in the Majors."

Levin went on to say, "there continues to be discussion about allowing all Writing Intensive courses taken to count, even if one of those has already been counted, towards two other Gen. Ed. requirements. This may be voted on in the next meeting." Levin continued, "Again, it is meant to create more flexibility in meeting the requirement, but the requirement is not changing at this time." In response to this, Sundue explained that the creation and need-based modification of the general education program is an administration-wide effort.

"When we began building the program from the ground up we simply began with the question: What are the core competencies that college educated students should have when they graduate?"

In addition, she said, "We decided that students should have had insight into all of the social sciences, a flexibility of mind, education of numbers, skills in written communication, an understanding of diversity, inequality and power relations, as well as the ability to communicate with people in other places in the world."

"As all of this suggests," Levin stated, "These decisions are made by the full faculty. Our Committee on Academic Policy and Curriculum, a faculty committee with student representation, makes recommendations to the full faculty. The full faculty votes on these, and all policy changes must be passed by the full faculty."

"For the current general education requirements," Student Government President, Janelle Hoffman ('13) said, "I know that there is a committee in place to evaluate how beneficial they have been, but this is a pretty routine thing and does not at all mean that the administration has plans to change the requirements again anytime soon." Hoffman continued, explaining that, "it's just a routine assessment that happens anytime a policy in the college changes. They have to see how well it has worked. Since the Class of 2013 is about to graduate, and is the first class to have completed these requirements, it makes sense to do the evaluation at this time."

While the Committee on Academic Policy and Curriculum made the decision for the current general education plan four years ago, Levin explained that the committee agreed as a whole to monitor and "ultimately assess the effectiveness of the new program."

"That assessment," Levin said, "is going to begin this year, and it may very well lead to some changes in the Gen. Ed. program. But, it is a very long process, and I don't expect any major changes to be made to the requirements in the short them."

"Yes, there is no change. We are simply clarifying things," Sundue concluded.

While the administration has no set plan to modify the requirements, a few seniors have offered some suggestions as to how the University could possibly better the setup of the program.

"I'd like to see an option setup similarly to the way the majors are set up," Victoria Hinojosa ('13) suggested. "Students should be given the option of choosing two or three general education sections, and then be required to meet a higher number of credits in that particular disciple. That way, students not only experience a discipline that is not their own, but they actually are able to become immersed in the topic. I think this would be much more beneficial than having to take only one or two classes in a wide variety of subject."

In contrast, Alyssa Lapicco ('13) feels that "the way the Gen. Ed. requirement program is set up right now is actually very beneficial to students. However, sometimes it is a bit stressful to complete courses in subject areas that are far off from your chosen concentration. The University should find a way to make the grading of these courses more fair for students."

Public Safety Blotter

10/24/12 Drug Law Violation
Brown Hall, 10:15 p.m.

An odor of marijuana was reported to Public Safety. When they responded, they determined the source of the odor, however, the residents were not present. One resident was located and questioned. The resident and another student disputed each other's statement. Citations were written for both individuals and a report was sent to the Dean.

All information provided by The Office of Public Safety.

10/25/12 Disorderly Persons
Holloway Hall, 9:28 p.m.

Public Safety was called to respond to a verbal dispute outside Holloway. The caller reported that the dispute appeared it could escalate into a physical fight. Once on scene, the individuals involved were located and questioned. A report was generated with information supplied and the report was forwarded to the Dean.

10/26/12 Disorderly Persons
Holloway Hall, 2:05 a.m.

An RA reported a non-compliant student in Holloway. Officers responded, located the suspect and questioned him. After questioning, a report was written and sent to the Dean.

10/26/12 Medical/Alcohol
Riker Roadway, 11:59 p.m.

Officers stopped to assist several people who were seen holding up an intoxicated individual. The intoxicated individual was a guest of a Drew student. After identification made and information was recorded, the guest was driven off-campus by a friend.

10/27/12 Drug Law Violation
Campus Drive, 9:02 p.m.

Two students were questioned after they were observed coming out of the woods. Both students were cited for drug violations and a report was sent to the Dean.

10:27/12 Drug Law Violation
McClintock Hall, 9:48 p.m.

Officers investigated a student and issued several citations when they determined the student was in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. A report was forwarded to the Dean.

10/27/12 Liquor Law Violation
Holloway Hall, 11:18 p.m.

Officers found several underage intoxicated individuals in Holloway during a walk-through. Several of the individuals were guests. The parents of the underage guests were called to pick them up and remove them from campus. The student hosts were cited and a report was sent to the Dean.

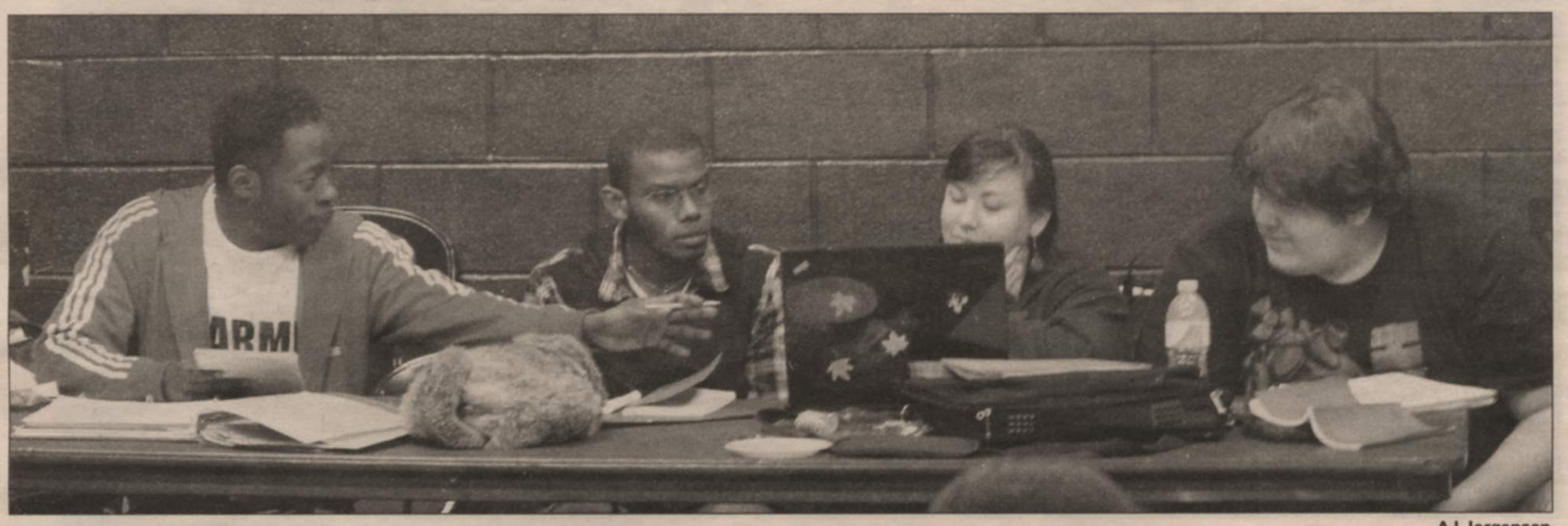
11/5/12 Drug Law Violation
Asbury Hall, 2:10 a.m.

A reported odor of marijuana was called into Headquarters and officers responded to Asbury. After a brief investigation, the source of the odor was located. It could not be determined who the responsible student was. A report with the findings was sent to the Dean.

11/5/12 Drug Law Violation
Brown Hall, 9:58 p.m.

Officers responded to Brown for an odor of marijuana. Once on scene, the location of the odor was found with no one present. One resident returned, was questioned and was issued a citation for drug law violations. A report was sent to the Dean's Office.

'Raisin' wrestles with racism



AJ Jorgensen

Director of "A Raisin in the Sun," Adjunct Professor Rodney Gilbert (far left) provides guidance to Demetrius Kee ('14), Emilyn Bona ('13) and Greg Glomb ('14), some of the students working with him to produce the show

Amanda Tesarek
Student Life & Arts Editor

Since its debut in 1959, "A Raisin in the Sun" has sought to open a dialogue regarding racial issues. Adjunct Professor of Theatre Arts Rodney Gilbert is attempting to promote that same dialogue on campus now through his interpretation of Lorraine Hansberry's most famous work.

The show follows the lives of the Younger family, who must decide what to do with an inheritance while navigating the realities of race.

"Even though it was written in the '50s, the subject matter is still timely today," Gilbert said. "It's important to talk about issues that are uncomfortable and to have a conversation going that is honest about race."

Gilbert's decision to put on "Raisin" stemmed from a desire to honor the legacy of the people who came before him. This includes honoring the work of Hansberry, one of the very few female African-American playwrights.

"I want to honor the people who had to fight before me," Gilbert said. "I'm proud of the lineage that led to me being able to teach here."

While directing "Raisin," Gilbert had conversations with the cast about the concept of legacy and racial issues. Gilbert said that he feels directing is a partnership with the various levels of the show.

"The playwright has a vision and I try to honor that vision," Gilbert said. "In less than a week, I'm going to hand the show off to the actors and then it will be their show."

The cast of "Raisin," according to Gilbert, has bonded together as a family. The primarily African-American cast includes several students as well as one union actress from New York.

Gilbert is also appreciative of the work the department and students have done in order to make the show a reality. Despite having the show pushed back a week due to Hurricane Sandy, the cast and crew have been working intensely to prepare for opening night.

Additionally, Gilbert has decided to open up an actual dialogue after the show on Wednesday in order to promote further discussion on the topics covered in "Raisin".

Gilbert was originally apprehensive of holding a talk-back session after "Raisin," but after seeing the reaction of Educational Opportunity Scholars students who were able to preview parts of the show, including a talk-back, decided in favor of the idea.

"Theater should educate and engage you," Gilbert said. "Hopefully this session will prompt a discussion about 'Raisin' in an intelligent way."

The performance with a talk-back session afterward will start at 7 pm on Wednesday, and subsequent shows will run Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday.

Gilbert said people should come see the show for its beauty.

"Theater is an aesthetic that beautifies," Gilbert said. "It takes awhile to grow, but in the end it's a beautiful product. I think in this play the community has come together to create a beautiful thing."

The Polish Culture Club Presents:

Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Story

Friday Nov. 16 at 8 p.m.
Drew University Concert Hall

Come watch the story of a courageous social worker who managed to save 2,500 Jewish children during WWII

Free for students and children, $2 for adults

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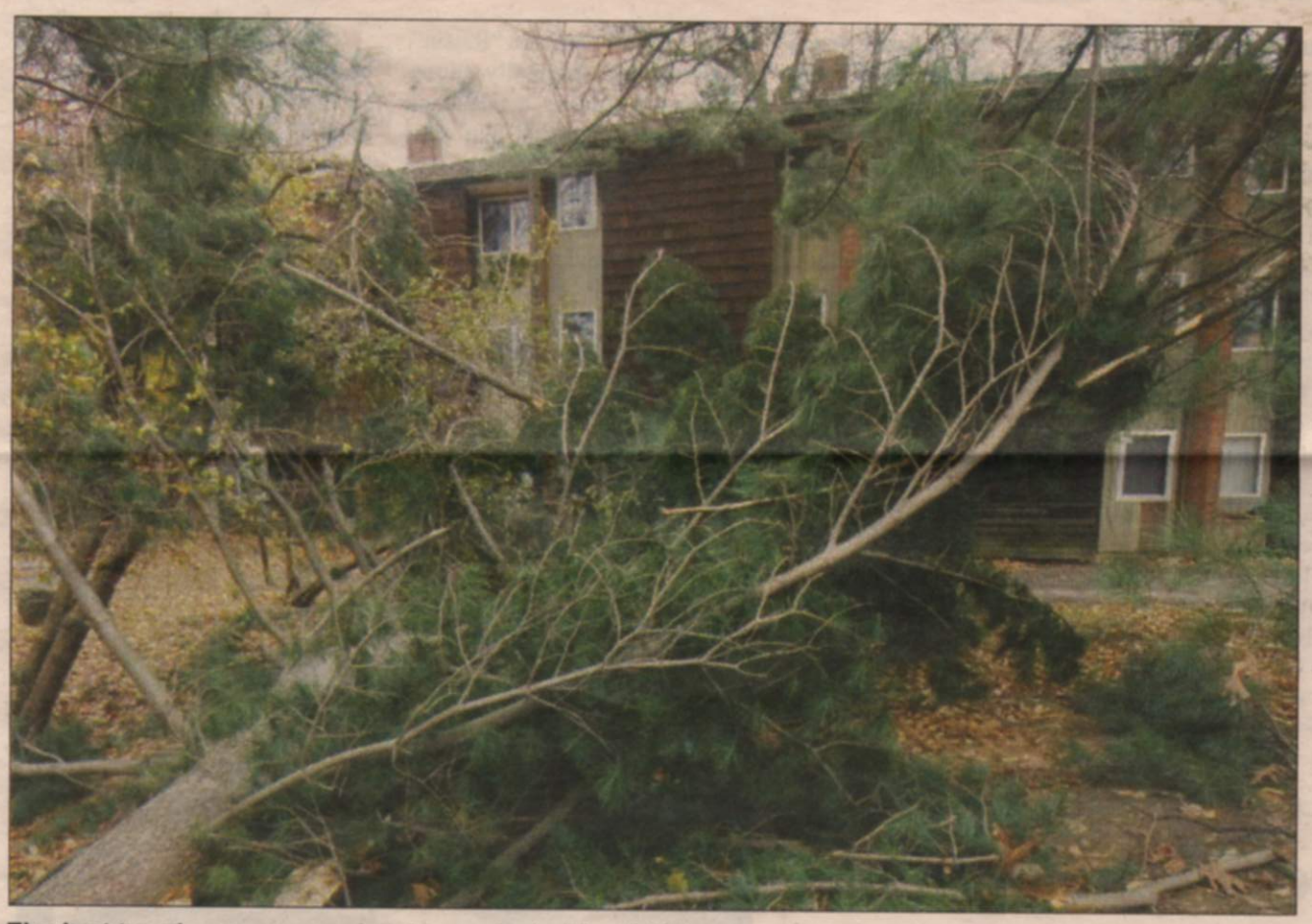
Superstorm Sandy and nor'eas

A large oak once located between the Ehinger Center and Hoyt falls victim to Hurricane Sandy

Photos by Drew University



Eberhart townhouses narrowly miss contact with a fallen evergreen

"At first we thought it would be a good idea to go outside in the storm and drink beer. For an added challenge, we decided to wear only bathing suits. Sitting in lawn chairs, staring out at the swaying trees, we began to notice the dropping temperature. It seemed that we had underestimated Sandy."

- Ben Kriegler ('13)

Drew recognizes Facilities for quick clean-up

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We also had portable generators as back-up and had personnel waiting at hand," he said. "We knew the power was going to go out." Because of that knowledge, all Facilities and Public Safety had to do was stand by when the power went out.

According to Kopas, Drew University gets its power from one of the seven lines in Madison. There are backup lines if these fail called JCP&L lines. The problem was that the backup lines failed as quickly as the Madison lines. "Those lines feed the power into Madison. The backup ones are there in case the Madison ones fail," Kopas said.

"Once they did fail, we did the best we could to prevent further damage. We shut down the power systems in the University buildings to avoid any surges.""We were stop three on the list to get our power back. Once we had the power restored, we were able to mobilize and take care of the damage on campus," Kopas said. Drew lost power on Sunday, the night the storm began, and power was restored Thursday evening. "The first thing we wanted to do was pick up all of the fallen trees," he said. "The night of the actual storm, eight trees fell down, and this was only on the campus. The trees that fell down in the Arboretum aren't included here."

After the storm was over, it was reported that 24 trees in total fell down. "The tree that caused the most damage was the one behind Foster. It landed on a transformer," Kopas said. "Luckily, this was the only one that was affected. And another one is on the way," he said. "[It] fell behind Brown and we had to contract a crane to remove it."Kopas recounts that what each department learned best from the storm was how cooperation can resolve problems.

Tree damage caused by heavy wind and rain in front of Pepin Service Center

"The evacuation plan was very successful. We knew there wasn't going to be any power or heat so we wanted to send students home, whether to their own or to their friend's," Kopas said. "Once this was accomplished, the ones that remained were moved elsewhere. The Grad and Theo students were okay because they live in apartment style dorms. But the remainder of the students were taken to Chatham Church by Dean Kuan." This plan, along with the cooperation of the different departments on campus, was what contributed to the success of the evacuation plan and the clean-up afterwards. "All of the departments were incredibly cooperative. Facilities, Public Safety, Reslife and Student Affairs were such a big help," Kopas said. "Their input was essential to the way everything went. We would have meetings every day the power was out to discuss what the next step was going to be, and it worked."

ter sweep through New Jersey

Photo by Drew University

Foster Hall transformer destroyed by fallen tree

Neighbors come together in times of loss and hardship

Saara DeAngelis-Jimenez
Contributing Writer

"A family up the street from where I was staying opened up her home for others to seek shelter, shower and eat."

- Saara DeAngelis-Jimenez ('13)

When the storm hit, my roommates and I were sitting around at a friend's household teaching her two-year-old niece Sarah how to carve her first Halloween pumpkin. She had insisted on Boots from "Dora the Explorer," where as my roommates and I choose to carve different beverage logos. We figured we would lose power for a day or two and were not ready to face the week long power outage Princeton, N.J. faced, due to Hurricane Sandy. That night, sitting in the candlelit room, listening to the news on the radio, the wind began to pick up and the trees hit the windows.

One of us kept our cell phone on during the day in case anyone needed to get in contact with us as the storm rattled Princeton. In the darkness, my friend's mom answered her cell phone with what little battery power she had left. She looked up at her daughters in the candlelit room—Hurricane Sandy had claimed the life of a family friend. The hurricane had killed someone that lived only 10 minutes away. It was unbelievable, but this moment made the hurricane severe.

It was only Monday night and the devastation of Hurricane Sandy had already begun—Sandy was here to stay. The category one hurricane crashed through New Jersey as we sat in the cold basement huddled under blankets. The card game Apples to Apples helped to pass the time and shake the uneasy feeling that I had.

The next couple nights had an eerie feel. We drove around the neighborhood to examine the damage of the aftermath. Seeing the trees going into houses and the real damage that it had done to families was devastating. Although we were huddled in the cold temperature of the house, others were losing their loved ones and their houses. There was a lot of devastation in Princeton, but it really heightened the community within the neighbors.

A family up the street from where I was staying opened up her home for others to seek shelter, shower and eat. They had set up an extension cord on the porch of the house which they allowed people to come to at any time and plug in their electronics. We were all going through the same thing, and it was remarkable to see how people responded in a time of crisis. The town of Princeton had formed a strong community and it was all because of Hurricane Sandy.

Sandy is more than a blowhard for Madison

Addison Del Mastro
Assistant Opinion Editor

For the past week and a half, New Jersey has been reeling from the impact of Hurricane Sandy. The storm's effect on Drew has been made obvious, thanks to Drew's Emergency Notification system and Wednesday's schedule updates.

But despite the comparatively better situation in northern New Jersey, the borough of Madison still experienced serious damage from Sandy.

Madison Council Member Robert Landrigan who helped oversee Madison's storm response, spoke about Sandy's impact on the borough. "The estimated cost of the damage to the borough of Madison is in excess of $20 million, and that includes borough property as well as residential homes," he said. "Three homes were pretty heavily damaged or destroyed, another 27 were severely damaged.

At least another 100 suffered minor damage and another 2,500 were considered 'affected,' a power line was down or something like that."

No flooding occurred in Madison, and the damage was due instead to the wind and downed trees, Landrigan said. Some of the worst damage was caused by the trees taking down the electrical equipment. "A lot of the electrical infrastructure in the town had to be rebuilt," he said. "That was a lot of the power lines. Right now it looks like we lost about 100 poles and/or transformers. In some neighborhoods the whole infrastructure had to be rebuilt."

Landrigan said that "right after the storm, every major road getting out of Madison was blocked in one way or another. Some neighborhoods within the town were cut off entirely." When asked if any estimates were taken of how many trees came down, Landrigan replied that "several hundred. That could be anywhere from 200 to 300 or more." By comparison, on the Drew campus about two dozen trees fell according to one of the emergency notifications.

Despite the serious damage, Madison recovered quickly with an effective response effort. As of Wednesday, Landrigan reported all of Madison now had power back. "We're fully up," he said. "The whole town is back in business as usual. If you drive around neighborhoods, you can still see some debris being cleaned up, but everyone has power now."

During the peak of the power outages, Madison set up shelters and a 24-hour "emergency operation center," said Landrigan. "It was manned 24/7 throughout the event, staffed mostly by volunteers. Fire department, police department, the mayor was there, a whole host of people, borough volunteers..." He said of the efforts, "There's at least 25 people who worked overnight to get things back." Landrigan also praised the Madison Department of Public Works, which did the debris cleanup. "The DPW did a great job getting the roads cleared." He attributed Madison's fast recovery to the fact that it does not receive power from one of the regional providers. "Madison, unlike some other towns, has our own electric utility. We were able to address our own needs. Other towns had to wait on a regional utility."

Madison resident suffers moderate home damage from falling tree

Photos by Madison Eagle

However, the NJ Transit train service remains offline and will not be back for what was described as "a while." To help remedy the situation, Madison set up a contract with a private bus company until the train service comes back. "They're going to have some competition," Landrigan said of the NJ Transit.

As of now, it is clear that recovery from Sandy is ongoing and will not be complete for a very long time. At least in Madison, the recovery effort appears to be both rapid and comprehensive.

Sandy dampens all but spirits

A personal struggle with the aftermath

Bruce Reynolds
Contributing Writer

Sandy can kiss my ass. The bitch of a superstorm disrupted our lives, even did severe damage. But what she didn't do was dampen our spirit.

As a newspaper reporter, I covered natural disasters many times. Now I'm on the other side of the notebook and camera lens. Our first discovery of Sandy's power arrived with the slow, crunching sound of a giant pine tree falling in our neighbors' yard. It missed the house, but not the power lines. Their power was out for a week. They and their two young children coped on three cords, running out our windows and across our driveways, which helped them to power their refrigerator, a lamp and various other things, from a surge protector.

We were glad to help, and wish we could've done more. I brought them a pot of coffee in the mornings. They met each day with smiles. We had no damage, other than a falling branch. In truth, our big maple tree has been losing limbs for years, and we've thought of taking it down. I regretted not doing that, as Sandy's winds kicked into high gear, but the old maple stayed upright.

So it's all good, as the kids say. Except that it isn't. We have a house in Point Pleasant Beach, and that house didn't escape Sandy's venom. We're three blocks from the beach, and Sandy had no trouble finding us. She trashed the place where my spread-out family gathers in the summer. We're damned if we're going to give her dominion over us.

Sandy left our yard covered in debris, from pumpkins to planks, even a section of boardwalk and 8 inches of vegetation, a carpet of smelly, crunchy, dangerous yucky stuff, through which you can't see the nails and screws lurking below. I discovered this Saturday, when I stepped on a hidden beam with a 3-inch nail protruding. That nail penetrated my running shoe and slid between my big toe and the one next to it, and I felt the frisson of having escaped something awful.

Courtesy of Bruce Reynolds

A resident of Point Pleasent N.J. sifts through his belongings that were ruined by Sandy

The 3 feet of water we had in the back yard (easy to see the waterline on the shed where we keep our bikes) translated into 15 inches inside (waterline just as easy to see and this one smelled.) If we took a serious hit to the outside of the house, the damage inside was far worse.

We saw it for the first time Thursday, the day the police allowed residents back in. This house has been in our family for 60 years, built by my wife Jane's aunt. Since we've owned the home, we've lovingly improved it inside and out. Seeing all we've done undone shocked us.

But that didn't last long. We just did what we always do, when there's a problem: we got to work. While I cut and pulled up the wall-to-wall carpet that covered the first floor, Jane explored and cleaned what she could. I never thought carpeting and worse, padding, could be so heavy, but when waterlogged, it is. We began a pile of pathetic scraps on our driveway, and tried to ignore the debris that covered our berry plants. I've discovered where there are berries, there are grandchildren. We may have to start over on that front, too.

Virtually all of our furniture is ruined. Water filled every low drawer, the tub, refrigerator and dishwasher. Disgusting. We lost books - which is heartbreaking - bedding, bedclothes. We lost all our upholstered furniture and probably our appliances. Without power, we have no way to know what still works.

On Saturday, we began the restoration. First, we had to get everything out of the house that now is useless, including all the interior doors, which warped beyond use. When we left, there was a pile of household furnishings, plus the big pieces of debris from the yard, that stretched the width of our property, 50 feet-wide-by-4-feet-high.

Nothing prepares you for seeing your property in this condition. But ours is only one house on a block, and everyone else's yard looks the same. We drove toward the beach late Saturday, to see what was going on closer. There was sand two blocks back from the beach, which the town bulldozed back where it's supposed to be. The roads, sidewalks and yards, formerly black tar, cement and grass, are now blond. It's a moonscape.

When we arrived at the house Saturday, we found three people already there and at work cleaning and organizing. A friend who's done some projects for us was there, and he'd brought two friends and his wife. These were volunteers. Next door, a crew of kids my son's age swarmed over and through the property, carrying out the damaged furniture and cleaning as they went. These were also volunteers.

Every so often, someone would pull up in a car and ask if we wanted food, water, help. There was no shortage of friendly volunteers of all ages, and I have no idea where they came from.

Here are things I discovered in the first blush of reckoning with Sandy:

- We accomplished a good deal that day, and it was probably .05 percent of what we'll need to do, ultimately, to get our place back in shape.
- You can't gauge the depth of peoples' kindness or willingness to help. The uplifting stories of volunteers and their compassion and thoughtfulness is what, in my opinion, keeps us strong and helps fuel optimism.
- All in all, we were lucky.

When all's said and done, I think we'll kick Sandy's ass.

Powerless in the face of the storm

Katie Yasser
Contributing Writer

"I've seen disaster reports before, but this is the first time I've recognized pictures."

—Katie Yasser ('15)

I've seen disaster reports before, but this is the first time I've recognized pictures.

There, behind the reporter standing shin-deep in ocean water, is the street to my friend's house. There's Governor Christie, striding along the boardwalk where I spend my summers. That's my gas station with a three-hour wait and odd-even rationing, and I know that blown-down building. That's my Jersey Shore, filling up screens across the country.

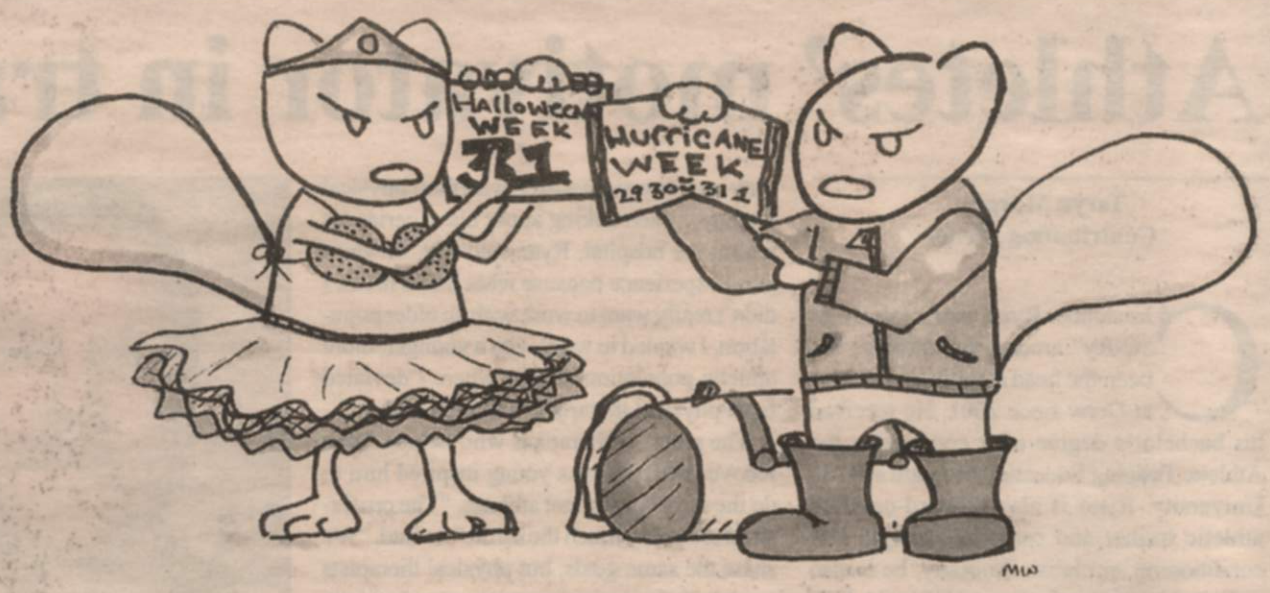
I wasn't home when Sandy hit. My family agreed it would be safer for me to stay in Mendham (near Morristown) at my roommate's relatives' house. Logically, it was the best decision—the storm was still strong, but less dangerous than it was for the coast. We didn't lose power completely until 7:30 p.m. Monday night, and all of the trees around the house stayed up. There was hot water and enough food for 20 college students, let alone two. We could charge phones and computers at the firehouse where my roommate's uncle worked, and there was a fireplace to keep us warm. I stayed there until Halloween. For me, those few days were the worst of the week.

Our hosts were lovely—her house was our house. But as I sat doing homework by daylight and flashlight, their battery-powered radio crackled out damage reports and their charged iPads and phones were full of pictures of home. It's strange to see AP disaster photos of your own area. It's stranger still to see them while you're sitting safely somewhere else. I couldn't shake the feeling that I should have been there. All I wanted was to go home.

My parents came to get me on Wednesday. The roads were passable, and I was allergic to the Mendham house's dog. Driving back through my neighborhood in Oakhurst, 10 minutes north of Belmar, was better than any Halloween cornfield maze. The power lines that weren't draped across the road were looped along bushes like Christmas lights, or wrapped around the massive trees that had fallen every which way, regardless of fences, houses or streets. My family was lucky—only one tree hit our house, causing minor external damage.

The rest of my Sandy vacation was actually fun. There was no power or hot water, and I didn't do any more homework. All three of the generators we borrowed broke down somehow. But I love an adventure, and my family isn't the type to stay dispirited for long. Since all of us were home, we took our Christmas card picture, sitting on the tree that hit our house, with an axe, saw and chainsaw wrapped in bows. On the nights we had a generator, we gathered around a computer screen for family movie night. I learned four new card games, pet horses at my brother's riding lesson and the food was still better than Commons. Sure, there was no power and trees down. But that only meant we could see more stars.

Drew: October, WTF?



"All these closings...we need a break!" Miho Wasabi

— Lead Editorial —

Welcome back, Drewids. *The Acorn* hopes every member of the Drew community made it through Hurricane Sandy safely and that those still dealing with the storm's aftermath will have a fast and safe recovery. To those who have lost homes or have otherwise been severely affected, we hope the university will do everything possible to aid them, short of that we hope especially for their recovery. In honor of the apparent tradition of an October mega-storm, and so as not to tempt fate, we petition Drew to declare the last week of October a fall break. If the third time is really the charm, we're holding our breath for next time.Thankfully, the university did an excellent job of dealing with the unexpected havoc and sheltering those students who could not make it home. The Borough of Madison also got power back up and cleared the roadways very quickly. And some Drew students, including Circle K members, are currently collecting donations for a hurricane relief effort. We are happy to see our community come together in a time of extreme circumstances, and we extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who helped us, and is continuing to help us, get safely through the storm.

Look to the people, not pols

Addison Del Mastro
Assistant Opinions Editor

It's official – we avoided any Bush/Gore vote recount fiascos and re-elected President Obama by a slim but decisive margin. Some Americans are rejoicing, others are dismayed. Both sides have been telling us this is the most important election of our lives, and extremists of both parties have offered doomsday scenarios on how the election of the wrong candidate will doom the nation.

Despite pundits urging us to focus on the real issues, this campaign has been an almost unprecedented marathon of mudslinging, muckraking and downright silliness. It is unfortunate that during so important an election, two of the most remarked-upon statements were Romney's "binders full of women" gaffe and Obama's "horses and bayonets" quip.

If it sounds like I'm just complaining about the smallness of negative campaigning, I'm not. Actually, I'm going further: the real importance of this election for America has little to do with the president at all. Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are both decent human beings, but neither one is God. Despite the President's leadership role and overwhelming TV coverage, he is far from able to implement his agenda on his own.

This means that once the aggressive campaign promises fade from our memories, we'll probably end up with four years that actually aren't a whole lot different from any other four-year period.

I suggest that it is the people – that's right, We the People – who really make change. And when you look at the plethora of state-level ballot initiatives this year, it's clear that the People are changing faster than the president.

The People legalized recreational marijuana in two states, gay marriage in another two, fiercely debated but ultimately voted down a GMO-food labeling law on the ballot in California, and approved a Puerto Rican statehood ballot measure with an uncertain future in Congress.

With the exception of gay marriage, none of these issues received attention from Romney and Obama, and they received relatively little coverage in the media.

Another important issue that got short shrift in the campaign was immigration. But where the candidates did not act, the Hispanic people did and broke overwhelmingly against Romney's harsh immigration stance.

However, outside of an executive order safeguarding certain undocumented immigrants from deportation, Obama himself has hardly sought comprehensive reform.

And that's the point. We can no longer look to the traditional media, the president or the presidential candidates to steer our nation and inform us. It is increasingly apparent that we ourselves, the People, want more and are willing to work harder for our goals than the politicians of either party. "Change" comes not when the right man is elected, but when the People stand up and work for it. That's what we did in states all across America on Tuesday night.

Of course, the virtues of legalized weed and gay marriage are hotly debated, so the passage of these measures alone is not necessarily "progress." What is progress is that the People did not wait for the federal government to implement policy. The People did it themselves, and that spirit of democracy itself is what really stood out.

While ballot questions are nothing new, 2012 saw the greatest number of them, in the most states, since the year 2000. This Election Day there were 176 questions in 38 states, according to *Ballotpedia.org*. This is more than in 2008, and in 2008 there were more than in 2004.

In short, despite the recent gridlock in Washington, America has been experiencing a steadily increasing drive towards state-level, direct democracy. There will always be a place for the president as our head of state and our symbolic leader. But at the end of the day, the president is nothing compared to We the People. That's the lesson of this election.

Addison Del Mastro is a sophomore political science major

The Acorn

The lead editorial reflects the collective opinion of *The Acorn*'s staff. All other opinions pieces represent solely the views of their authors.

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Athletes' motivator in training room

Taryn Murphy
Contributing Writer

Christopher Ryan, better known as "C-Ry" among the athletes, has been the head athletic trainer here at Drew since 2001. He received his bachelor's degree after completing the Athletic Training Education Program at Kean University. Ryan is also a board-certified athletic trainer and certified strength and conditioning specialist. Similarly, he is also a clinical instructor for Seton Hall's CAATE Athletic Training program and a certified clinical instructor for the American Red Cross.

Having grown up in Brooklyn, N.Y., Ryan discovered his love for athletics at an early age. He ran track and participated in various football and basketball leagues throughout middle and high school, primarily competing on a concrete surface. Due to this, he was injured several times and frequently found himself in physical therapy. These continual visits for physical therapy soon sparked an educational interest and became the focus of Ryan's intended career. "That's what I was initially going to school for, was to be a physical therapist," Ryan explained. "I liked what they were doing...working out a little bit, and helping athletes get back on the playing field. I really enjoyed the environment there."

Within the Athletic Training Education Program, he worked with amputees regaining their mobility and assisted with their physical therapy. When talking about his experiences within the hospital, Ryan said that "it was a good experience because what it told me is, I didn't really want to work with an older population, I wanted to work with a younger, more athletic population. That's where I deviated from physical therapy to athletic training."

The physical therapists who helped Ryan recover when he was young inspired him to do the same for student athletes. "The professions are pretty much the same," he said. "We share the same goals, but physical therapists work with the general population, and athletic trainers work with only athletes."

"I really love my job," Ryan said emphatically. "I love it, and I don't ever want to retire. The main reason is because I have a lot fun. I am working with some pretty cool student athletes."

Having to work with various injuries each day, Ryan enjoys the challenges presented to him and the satisfaction of returning athletes to the playing fields.

Another enjoyable part of his job is the long-lasting friendships built with the athletes. "Just the interaction with the students, it kinda keeps me young. It is a very dynamic job, because you're working with a bunch of different kids and you have to figure out what is the best way to reach them and try to make them healthy."

Being able to watch the transformation of an athlete from a first-year to a senior is something remarkable that Ryan really enjoys. The characteristic traits of passion, work ethic and staying positive are something he believes every athlete should learn to maintain.

drewrangers.com

Chris Ryan head trainer at Drew

"I love nothing better than when I see you guys show these traits of passion and work ethic either during a rehabilitation assignment, workouts on your own or during your games," Ryan said.

"During my time here at Drew, those athletes that show these traits are the ones that have had very successful and rewarding careers."

Another exciting part of Ryan's job involves the strength and conditioning of Drew athletes. When asked about the programs and routines he has been implementing to improve the health, strength and conditioning of our athletes, he gave some impressive insight on the initiative. "Spark training is a voluntary program where kids come in and we work on things like speed, agility, quickness and stretching." It is an important and useful program which every athlete should take advantage of to improve their individual fitness and endurance. Ryan has also implemented an 'open door policy', where he will work individually with any athlete who is willing to improve their fitness and endurance. He gives advice on how to achieve certain fitness related goals, along with personally working with the athletes on what they would like to improve. He also offers helpful feedback to Drew coaches as to what they should add to their summer workout regiments.

My final question was, "How many consecutive push-ups can you do?" Although the last time he tested himself was a few years ago, Ryan recorded an impressive 85 consecutive push-ups. Ryan has contributed so much to the athletic community at Drew. His passion for helping others and his commitment to the level of fitness of our athletes are important components to the success of every team on campus.

Teams fall short in Landmark playoffs

Field Hockey

Andrew Goldberg
Sports Editor

After defeating third-seeded Scranton 2-1 in overtime on Saturday, the Lady Rangers fell in the championship game to No. 1 seeded Catholic University 3-2 on Sunday.

After Hurricane Sandy relocated the Landmark playoffs to Catholic University, Landmark Offensive Player of the Year Brooke Gagliano ('14) scored in overtime to lift the Rangers over the Scranton Royals.

The Royals struck quickly, getting a goal from Jessica Conroy on the game's first shot just 6:50 into the game. The Rangers responded by scoring on their second shot of the game as Gagliano recorded her first of two goals on the afternoon. Soon after, classmate Danielle Waleko ('14) found Gagliano, and together they tied the game with 1:13 left in the half.

The second half was scoreless. However, the offense picked up as both teams combined to take 11 shots. Royal goalie Krista Mundy would turn all six Ranger shots away to preserve the tie.

In the 74th minute, Melissa Boyd ('15) found Gagliano on a penalty corner for the game-winning goal, sending the Lady Rangers to the championship game.

The Lady Rangers followed their thrilling victory over Scranton on Saturday with a rematch of last year's title game against Catholic on Sunday.

The Cardinals got on the board quickly as they would beat CC Carlini ('14) just four minutes into the game off the stick of Haley Wright. The Rangers would tie the game in the 17th minute as Bea Cannavale ('16) ripped a shot past Catholic goalie Megan Comunale.

The Cardinals opened the second half with goals by Maura Campbell and Kim Hermann just four minutes in, giving the Cardinals a 3-1 lead. The Lady Rangers pulled ahead to rest at only one point behind the Cardinals after Gagliano converted a penalty stroke in the 49th minute. However, the score would remain 3-2 and Catholic captured its second straight Landmark title.

Men's Soccer

Chris Sullivan
Contributing Writer

The Ranger's week leading up to the Landmark Conference semifinals was interrupted by a freakish display of weather for the second year in a row.

The Rangers were able to hold Susquehanna to a scoreless draw for 78 minutes before conceding the decisive goal. The scoreline does not depict the true nature of the game however, as the Rangers were only able to manage a single shot on target in the dying moments of the second half. One

Courtesy of Rachel Fink

Defender RJ Voorman ('14)

takeaway was the Rangers defense's ability to limit the amount of chances Susquehanna were able to create. Midfielder John Noegiwich ('15) said, "As a unit we played well defensively. Both teams were solid, and it was a very close match up in that regard. We only made one mistake which happened to cost us the game." Despite the defensive display exhibited in the first 75 minutes, Coach Lenny Armuth replaced co-captain RJ Voorman ('14), with another forward, Jackson Hurst ('16).

Almost instantaneously after Voorman's substitution and the reshuffling of the defense, Susquehanna scored the decisive goal in the tie to make it 1-0. The Rangers were able to mount a response within the dying moments of the game. In the 88th minute, the ball fell to Kevin Walpole ('13) in a goalscoring position, only to have his knee give out when he struck the ball, leaving him with one last injury as a parting favor for an injury-plagued career. Walpole's co-captain Matthew Gragnano ('14) produced the only shot on target of the game, only to have his header saved by the Crusaders' goalie.

So for the fourth time in a row, the Rangers were eliminated from the conference tournament in the semifinals as once again the season ends, as T.S. Elliot writes "not with a bang but with a whimper."

Women's Soccer

Alex Majd
Assistant Sports Editor

Last Saturday, the Women's Soccer Team faced second seeded Moravian College in the Landmark Semi-Final in Scranton, Pa. After a long, hard fought game, the Rangers fell in penalty kicks. Neither team found the back of the net during regulation.

The game was heated from the beginning with both teams fouling early. Katie O'Keefe ('14) was the first Ranger to get a shot off, but missed wide. Liz Loiodice ('14) brought spark to the Ranger offense after subbing in, testing the Greyhound defense twice. Drew held a 6-1 advantage on shots taken in the first half of play.

Moravian outshot the Rangers 9-4 in the second half. Kim Jaikissoon ('13) made two saves, one coming in the 88th minute of play. This save kept the score even at 0-0, sending the game into overtime.

The first overtime period only saw one shot by O'Keefe, however the second period saw four shots. Bridget McRory ('14) missed wide in the 100th minute, whereas O'Keefe's second shot was saved. Moravian's only shot of the overtime period came in the 105th minute. The score at the end of overtime meant both teams took to the penalty spot for a shoot out, which the Rangers lost 4-3.

"We had a much better fight against Moravian this time around, and it was extremely unfortunate that our Landmark season ended with penalty kicks," Caroline Kuras ('14) said. "Penalty kicks could never determine the true skill of a team. We worked very hard and played well together all through the game."

"The first time we faced Moravian it was not our best game, so we went into the semifinal knowing exactly what we needed to do and improve on to win. I don't think they were expecting us to come out as hard as we did, we had a bunch of opportunities and played a tough game, losing in penalty kicks was heartbreaking," added McRory.